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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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Wage

March 31, 1992

TO: Lowell Braxton, Associate Director, Mining *Agree, LRB 4-2 see note*

THRU: Wayne Hedberg, Permit Supervisor *W.H.*

FROM: Tony Gallegos, Reclamation Engineer *cc: [signature]*

RE: Recommended Change in File Status, Desmond Shields, Greenstone A & B Claims, E/003/017, Box Elder County, Utah

An inspection of this site was performed by Division staff on November 20, 1991. That inspection revealed the site is more of an ongoing mining operation rather than an exploratory operation seeking to discover or define a deposit. This location has been a historic mining or rock-hounding site for variscite. The site is located on the border of sections 21 and 22, T8N, R18W, SLB&M. The BLM owns the surface and mineral rights to section 22, but only owns the surface rights to the east half of section 21. The current mining disturbance is estimated at approximately two (2) acres. The larger pit excavation has a highwall with no benching or safety berming. The highwall is approximately 35-40 feet high from top to bottom and includes wall portions which are nearly vertical. Loose boulders and talus are located above portions of the highwall. The Division is concerned with the hazardous condition of the highwall in this pit. Since this is a popular rock-hounding spot with relatively easy access, it is possible that a person of the general public could be injured by falling rock while in the pit.

I recommend that: (1) this operation be reclassified as a small mining operation, that the operator and BLM be notified of this change in file status, (2) the operator be requested to improve the stability and safety of the highwall in the main pit or fence the area off to prevent public access, (3) the operator post warning signs identifying the rock fall/pit hazards, and (4) the operator submit an annual report for this operation for the past year. ***

This change in file status will not require any bonding or additional processing other than the change in file numbers and letter notifying the operator. Information in the newly designated mine file (S/003/018) will then be open to the public rather than confidential, as the old exploration file was.

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we should send SMC NOI to operator informing operator of our findings. Reclassify only after submission of NOI to DNM LRM

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File Status Change
Desmond Shields
E/003/017
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Please indicate your acceptance or rejection of this recommendation by completing the attached change in file status approval form.

jb
Attachment
S003018